

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 as follows:

1. (Three times amended) A system having first and second processes residing on first and second computers used with backup or restore operations, wherein each of said first and said second computers are in communication with a data storage system storing data from at least said first and second computers and a network, said system comprising:

at least one first communication mechanism residing on both said first and second computers for facilitating communications between said first and second processes over said network;

a second communication mechanism residing on both said first and second computers facilitating communication between said first and second processes through said data storage system; and

means, within said first and second processes, for allowing said first and second processes to determine whether a communication from said first and second processes is from first or second communication mechanism, wherein, in response to determining if a communication is from said first communication mechanism then communicating over said network and in response to determining if a communication is from said first communication mechanism then communicating through said data storage system.

6. (One time amended) A method for assisting with backup and restore operations in a computer system, the method comprising:

(a) establishing at least one first connection over a network, between first and second processes residing on different computers, wherein said first connection is configured to be responsively used for communication over a network; and

(b) establishing in parallel with establishing said at least one first connection, a second connection, through a data storage system, between said first and said second processes, wherein said second connection is configured to be responsively used for communication over said data storage system.

7. (One time amended) The method of claim 6, wherein step (a) comprises the step of: creating a first pair of communication mechanisms on a designated port, wherein said first pair includes a first communication mechanism and a second communication mechanism.

8. (One time amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step (a) further comprises the steps of:

requesting with said first communication mechanism of said communication mechanism pair a connection to said second communication mechanism of said communication mechanism pair; and

in response to said connection request, accepting said connection request.

9. (One time amended) The method of claim 8, wherein step (a) further comprises the step of:

creating a second pair of communication mechanisms on the designated port, wherein said second pair includes a first communication mechanism and a second communication mechanism and wherein said second pair of communication mechanisms is used for transferring a different type of information than would be transferred over said first pair of communication mechanisms.

10. (One time amended) The method of claim 9, wherein step (a) further comprises the steps of:

requesting with said first communication mechanism of said second pair of communication mechanisms, a connection to said second communication mechanism of said second pair of communication mechanisms; and in response to said connection request, accepting said connection request.

11. (One time amended) The method of claim 6, wherein step (b) comprises the steps of:

creating a third pair of communication mechanisms on a second designated port, wherein said third pair includes a first communication mechanism and a second

communication mechanism.

12. (One time amended) The method of claim 11, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:

requesting with said first communication mechanism of said third pair of communications mechanisms a connection to said second communication mechanism of said second pair of communications mechanisms; and

in response to said connection request, accepting said connection request.

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13. (One time amended) The method of claim 12, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:

receiving information about a group of resources in said data storage system;
in response to receiving information about said group of resources, creating a fourth pair of communication mechanism dynamically, wherein said fourth pair includes a first communication mechanism and a second communication mechanism; and

connecting said first communication mechanism and said second communication mechanism of said fourth pair of communication mechanism to each other through said data storage system.

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15. (One time amended) A method for assisting with backup and restore operations in a computer system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection, over a network, between a first process and a second process residing on different computers;

receiving information about a dynamically created communication mechanism over the established connection;

establishing a second connection over the network, on the dynamically created communication mechanism, between said first and second processes;

identifying resources on a data storage devices to be used in order to transfer information through said storage device; and

establishing a connection between said first and second processes through said data storage system.